

into the Matt Clements home in the Second Ward, where they planted trees, flowers, a vegetable garden and had plenty of room for their grandchildren to play.

Matilda, "Tillie," or "Aunt Til" as she was called, learned responsibility early in her life. At the age of nine she would stay with her sister Josephine, whose husband Alva Murdock, worked away from home. One night as she was returning home from her sister's place, she bumped into an old hay rack, bruising her leg badly below the knee. This accident caused her much pain and suffering, and in her later life she had to undergo a series of operations. But through her faith and the power of the priesthood, she was able to retain the use of her leg throughout her life.

As a girl Tillie learned to work around the house. Her mother was a practical nurse and was away from home a lot, so Tillie did much of the work. In the year 1886 she went to White Rocks to live with her sister Josephine, while her brother-in-law managed the Indian Reservation. She returned home in the spring of 1887 to prepare for marriage to Heber, and they were married in the Logan Temple.

After moving to Lake Creek, Matilda took an active part in Church work, teaching classes and conducting the singing. She was a very graceful dancer and taught many young people the various steps. She was also active in Relief Society and the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

After her husband's death in 1942 she continued to maintain her home in Heber, though she traveled occasionally to visit her family before her death in 1956.



he as a young man took an active part in building up Nauvoo and worked with his father and brothers on the Nauvoo Temple which they could see from their home. They left Nauvoo with the exodus of the Saints in 1846. They stopped at Mt. Pisgah, Council Bluffs, and vicinity and in June 1850 the family started on the long, tedious journey to the Great Salt Lake Valley. They arrived on 13 Oct. 1850 with the Edward Hunter Party, settling in Provo after a few days. In the spring of 1853 he was ordained a Seventy by Joseph Young and in the fall was called with others to go south to Little Salt Lake Valley to strengthen the settlement and guard against the Indians. Benjamin married Mary Ellen Foster 28 Feb. 1854. He performed military duty in Echo Canyon at the time of the Johnston Army Invasion. He went to Cache Valley where he was called on a mission to the Sandwich Islands in 1864, where he remained for 6 years. He also married Eliza Arnette Foster, a younger sister of Mary Ellen, his first wife. They were married 1 May 1856. After living in Coalville for three years he desired to be closer to Provo with his family so his children could attend Brigham Young University. He desired a farm so he went to Center Creek where he purchased 160 acres of land from his father, across the road east from where the Center Ward Chapel now stands. His father had recently got a Government patent on it and was contemplating going to Arizona. Benjamin purchased the land with one yoke of oxen valued at \$100 and one double seated two horse spring wagon valued at \$170. This purchase made it possible for his father to move to Arizona. On 15 July 1877 when Wasatch Stake was organized, Benjamin was ordained a High Priest and a Bishop and set apart as the first Bishop of Center Ward, organized at that time. He held that position for six-

BENJAMIN CLUFF

MARY ELLEN FOSTER CLUFF

ELIZA ARNETTE FOSTER

CLUFF

Benjamin Cluff Sr., the first Bishop of Center Ward, was born 20 March 1830 in Durham, Strafford Co., New Hampshire. He was the fourth child of David and Betsey or Elizabeth Hall Cluff. He was but a small child when his parents moved to Kirtland, Ohio, where the family became converts to Mormonism. Benjamin distinctly remembered the dedication of the Kirtland Temple and the persecution that followed. In 1840 the family moved to Nauvoo where

teen years or until 1894. During this time his son Benjamin Jr. went to the BYU where he joined the faculty and in 1891 became the second President of the BYU. Benjamin later went to Arizona then moved back to Provo where he enjoyed good health until his death on 19 Nov. 1909. He was the father of 15 children, seven by his first wife Mary Ellen and eight by his second wife Eliza Arnette.

Benjamin's wives Mary Ellen Foster and Eliza Arnette Foster were daughters of George and Mary Jane McCullough Foster. Mary Ellen was born 24 Dec. 1837 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her father owned a foundry there, where he met with an accident and lost the sight of one eye. He bought a farm and while on this farm they heard the gospel and were soon baptized. The Foster family joined the Saints in their trek westward. They were persecuted and driven about with the Saints. She remembered hearing the Prophet Joseph Smith preach the Gospel near the Nauvoo Temple. The family left Nauvoo and settled at Winter Quarters then in 1847 they settled at Council Bluffs where they stayed to accumulate sufficient means to provide the necessary equipment for the journey across the plains to Utah. They arrived in Utah in 1852, settling first in Grantsville then in Provo. Mary Ellen married Benjamin Cluff in Salt Lake City on 28 Feb. 1854. She was a good wife and mother. She accompanied her husband to the Islands on his mission and helped him while there.

Eliza Arnette was a younger sister of Mary Ellen. She was born in Oct. 1842 in Hamilton County, Ohio, and was only four years old when the family joined the LDS Church. While crossing the plains their mother died of cholera leaving a baby daughter but four months old. It was at this time that Eliza as a small child proved to be a motherly type. She was endowed with a gentle, loving, patient and conscientious disposition which proved of value to her later in life. Benjamin Cluff took Eliza in marriage 1 May 1856. She bore eight children losing two of them in infancy. She proved to be a devoted wife and mother and took care of herself and family in Utah while her husband and Mary Ellen went to the Hawaiian Islands on a mission. She died in Center Ward in 5 Sept. 1880 and was buried in the Center Creek Cemetery.

Benjamin's and Mary Ellen's children are as follows:

1. Mary Jane, born 25 June 1855 in Provo, married to Alonzo Adelbert Brim, third Bishop of Center Ward.

2. Benjamin Jr., born 7 Feb. 1858 in Provo, married Mary E. John in 1883 and Hattie Cullimore 17 Dec. 1886. He was the second President of the BYU and led an exploring expedition to Mexico and Central America to explore the ruined cities and other evidences of the authenticity of the Book of Mormon. He died 14 June 1949.

3. George, born 29 April 1860 in Provo, married Pamela Fortie 22 Aug. 1887 in the Logan Temple. George died in 1928 and his wife in 1946.

4. Mildred, born 20 April 1866 in Hawaii, married Richard Coope Harvey.

5. Ella M., born 2 Dec. 1869 in Hawaii and was married to George Berdnor.

6. David Foster, born 24 May 1873 in Logan, and was married to Cora Alexander 19 Aug. 1900 and later to Eunice Fern Cluff.

7. Walter Elmo, born 27 Nov. 1876 in Coalville, married to Mary Gertrude Miller 28 May 1902. He went East and founded and was the first President of the John Clough Genealogical Society. He died in Hartford, Conn., 26 April 1943.

Benjamin's and Eliza Arnette's children are as follows:

1. Eliza Ann, born 16 April 1858 in Provo, and was married to Alma Hobson.

2. Josephine, born 15 Jan. 1860 in Provo, and was married to William Jones.

3. Margaret Ann, born 13 July 1863 in Logan, and was married to Samuel Hobson.

4. Joseph L., born 7 Dec. 1864 in Logan.

5. William K., born 31 March 1871 in Logan.

6. Betsey or Bessie, born 25 May 1873 in Salt Lake City and was married to Hyrum W. Merrill 26 March 1891. She died in 1947.

7. Lucy, born 30 Sept. 1875 in Logan, died 30 Sept. 1875.

8. Karl V., born 4 Jan. 1878 in Centerfield, Utah.

JOSEPH AND PHOEBE ELIZABETH BUNNELL CLUFF

Joseph Cluff was one of the first settlers of Center Creek. He was the sixth child of David and Betsey or Elizabeth Hall Cluff born in Willoughby, Geauga County, Ohio, on 11 Jan. 1834. He journeyed with his parents to Kirtland, Nauvoo and finally to